

BRIAN DeGRAW THANK YOU DEAN BLUNT

SEPT. 30 – OCT. 27, 2023

Opening Reception:

Saturday, September 30th, 8–11 PM

Musical Performance by **William Kincaid**

Refreshments by

Land & Sea Dept. | Illuminated Brew Works | Visitor



CRANIOSACRAL SOUND

2023

Oil and tempera on linen

30 x 24 in. / 76.2 x 60.96 cm

Brian DeGraw is an artist and musician working across painting, drawing, installation, video, sculpture, as a DJ, and as a member of the band *Gang Gang Dance*. He has presented solo exhibitions at James Fuentes, Allen & Eldridge, and Real Estate Fine Art in New York; Le Confort Moderne in Poitiers, France; *Wish-Less* in Tokyo, Japan; and has been included in group exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, Jewish Museum, White Columns, Swiss Institute, Pace, Tramps, The Hole, ATM Gallery, American Fine Arts Co., and in the 2008 Whitney Biennial in New York; Kunsthalle Wien in Vienna, Austria; Deste Foundation in Athens, Greece; and *Wish-Less*, *Hysteria Glamour*, and *Gallery Claska* in Tokyo. His work is represented in the public collections of the Museum of Modern Art, Zabudowicz Collection, Dakis Joannou Collection, Ragnarock Museum, and Agnes B Collection. DeGraw lives and works in New York City.

The following is an exchange between Brian DeGraw and Sherman Way in regards to DeGraw's exhibit 'Thank You Dean Blunt' at The Soccer Club Club.

SW: What is the meaning behind the title of the show "Thank You Dean Blunt"?

BDG: It was just an immediate thought. I was listening to Dean Blunt in the studio at the time that the gallery asked me for a title and just thought it would be nice to express thanks to the music for making me feel the things I feel and think the things I think when it's playing. Gratitude is often too posthumous.

SW: So it doesn't pertain to the actual content of the show at all?

BDG: I'm sure it must. I want to trust my immediate reaction to things. I have found instinct to be much more beneficial to my work than overthought and calculated analysis. Life keeps showing me that the demo is always better than the album. I think everything eventually pertains to everything anyhow.

SW: Are you sure about that? I feel like I can name a few things that definitely do not pertain to one another.

BDG: I'm pretty sure yes, but I'm also really delighted to not be 100% certain because doubt is something I've been thinking about a lot. I'm trying to change my relationship with doubt in both my life and work. I want to welcome it and appreciate it as an opposing force rather than let it intimidate me to the point of second guessing all my choices. In fact last week I decided to google the words "thank you dean blunt" to see what would come up and a song by a Canadian rapper appeared under the same title. My heart really sank when I saw that. I listened to it and I immediately told myself I need to change the title. I thought to change it to "The Correct Use of Doubt"...something that would just illustrate my thoughts more literally...but then I realized how contradictory that would be as this was a perfect opportunity to be confronted with doubt and not let it alter my initial commitment...so I left the title as is and I'm sitting with the discomfort waiting to see if it can transform it into comfort.

SW: Was the song by the Canadian rapper any good? Did it directly reference Dean Blunt?

BDG: I didn't like the energy or sound of it at all. It didn't speak to me on any level whatsoever and seems horribly misogynistic. The lyrics go like this:

*You the type to lay your hands on a bitch
I'ma say a couple words and then I'ma take her quick
If she lame I won't even lay a hand on a chick
Make her roll my spliffs then tell her take a trip
Wont cuff a bitch (never cuff a bitch)
Unless she makes me rich (yeah)
Unless she makes me rich (real rich)
If she lame I won't say a word to a chick
Just get her with a look and then I'll slip and then I'll dip*

SW: Hmm yeah...seems very far away from anything I associate with you or your work.

BDG: Yeah but I'm there regardless whether I like it or not:

*You the type to lay your hands on a **B**itch
I'ma say a couple **w**ords and then
I'ma take her quick
If she **I**ame
I won't even
lay a **h**and on a chick
Make **h**er roll my spliffs then tell her take a trip
Wont cuff a bitch (never cuff a bitch) unless she **G**onna make me rich (yeah)
Unless she makes me **R**ich (real rich)
If she lame I won't say **A** word to a chick
Just get her **W**ith a look and then I'll slip and then I'll dip*